

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering the present application and for indicating that claims 2 and 4 include allowable subject matter. Please reconsider the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-5 and 7 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2, and 4 are independent. Claims 3, 5, and 7 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 7 have been amended by way of this reply. Claim 1 has been amended to more precisely claim the present invention. Claims 2 and 4 have been rewritten into independent form. Claim 7 has been amended to correct a lack of antecedent basis. Support for the amendments to claim 1 can be found, for example, in original claim 2, paragraph [0048], and Fig. 3. The limitations added to claim 1 are taken from claim 2, and thus necessitate no further search. No new matter has been added by way of the amendments.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 2 and 4 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 2 and 4 have been rewritten into independent form. Thus, claims 2 and 4 are now allowable.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings, asserting the “vicinity of a focus of the lens” of claim 7 is not shown in the drawings. Applicant respectfully traverses the objection. The relevant portion of claim 7 recites that “the portion of light, deflected by said light

transmitting member toward the front side, pass in the vicinity of a focus of the lens.” Fig. 2 clearly shows light deflected by the light transmitting member toward the front side passing in a vicinity of a focus of the lens F2. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3, 5, and 7 of the present application was rejected under U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,081,564 (“Mizoguchi”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,945,672 (“Du”). Claim 1 has been amended by way of this reply. To the extent that this rejection may still apply, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 requires, in part, “a light transmitting member configured to cover said semiconductor light emitting device, wherein said light transmitting member comprises a rear sealing part shaped like a quarter sphere and a front sealing part shaped such that a radius of curvature of a surface in a cross section parallel to the forward direction is smaller than a radius of curvature of a surface of the rear sealing part, wherein the front sealing part deflects a portion of light generated by said semiconductor light emitting device toward the front side and the rear sealing part transmits a portion of said light generated by said semiconductor light emitting device toward said reflector.” The light transmitting member of the above limitation is configured to use the light generated by the semiconductor light emitting device with high efficiency. Further, the light transmitting member of the above limitation is compact, and thus takes up little room inside the vehicular headlamp.

Mizoguchi discloses a vehicular lighting device having a light source, a vertical-diffusion type reflecting surface, a cylindrical bulb cap surrounding the light source, and an outer lens with a large radius of curvature. The Examiner equates the cylindrical bulb cap to the light

transmitting member of claim 1. However, the bulb cap does not have a rear sealing part shaped like a quarter sphere and a front sealing part shaped such that a radius of curvature of a surface in a cross section parallel to the forward direction is smaller than a radius of curvature of a surface of the rear sealing part. In fact, in Mizoguchi, the rear part of the bulb cap is completely flat, and the front part is slightly curved, and thus the front part has a larger radius of curvature than the rear part. Du is only relied upon to disclose a light source facing a direction perpendicular to the forward direction, and is completely silent regarding any sort of light transmitting member covering a semiconductor light emitting device.

Claim 7 further requires, in part, “the portion of light, deflected by said light transmitting member toward the front side, pass in a vicinity of a focus of the lens.”

Because the outer lens of Mizoguchi has a large radius of curvature, the focus of the outer lens 15 would be well behind the vehicular lamp, and thus the portion of light, deflected by said light transmitting member toward the front side, necessarily cannot pass in a vicinity of a focus of the lens. As explained above, Du fails to disclose a light transmitting member.

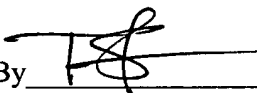
In view of the above, claim 1 is patentable over Mizoguchi and Du, whether considered separately or in combination. Claims 3, 5, and 7 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1. Thus, claims 3, 5, and 7 are patentable over Mizoguchi and Du, at least for the same reasons as claim 1, and claim 7 is further patentable over Mizoguchi and Du, for the reasons given above. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply to be responsive to all outstanding issues and place the application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or any other issues arise, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account No. 50-0591, under Order No. 02008/142001 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: December 14, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Thomas K. Scherer
Registration No.: 45,079
OSHA · LIANG LLP
1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800
Houston, Texas 77010
(713) 228-8600
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant